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Mr. Harding and Patronage.

Although the President-elect is taking a vacation, his mail is following him, and is unprecedented for bulk.

This appeared in a special to yesterday's Star from Point Isabel:

"Everybody writes to Mr. Harding nowadays to tell him how he should run the government after March 4. They tell him whom he must put in his cabinet, who must be appointed postmaster or collector of internal revenue, as the case may be. They even tell him what he should eat and drink and wear, and nearly every one is an 'original Harding man.'"

Mr. Wilson is believed to have had less trouble with office-seekers than any of his predecessors in the White House. He managed in two ways.

First, he kept people at a distance. His aloofness began with his assumption of the duties of his office. Soliciting place by letter or through a friend is slow business.

Second, he owed his election less to the activity of his friends than to the faction fighting of his enemies. The republican family row had made him President. Had the Taft people and the Roosevelt people stood together, the activity of the democrats would have availed nothing.

There is no aloofness in Mr. Harding's composition. He is approachable, and promises to remain so while President. Persons seeking office as well as those desiring only to pay their respects will be able to reach him.

But he could truthfully say to office-seekers—though he probably will not—that "original Harding men" had little to do with his nomination, and less with his election. When the time came the voters surged toward him. They could not have been kept back.

As a companionable man, fond of his friends and grateful for the services they perform for him, Mr. Harding will find patronage a hard nut to crack. But that will be in his day's work.

Some Campaign Predictions.

Reports that circulated only a few weeks before the election about the conditions in certain states are amusing now read in connection with the election returns. It was at the time that "drift to Cox" was discovered.

Take Utah. The league of nations, it was declared, would give that state to the democrats and defeat Mr. Smoot for re-election to the Senate. The republicans carried Utah by a plurality of over twenty-three thousand, and Mr. Smoot won handily.

Take Wisconsin. Mr. La Follette had made the state impossible for the republicans. They carried it by three hundred and fifty thousand plurality, and Mr. Lenroot won over both of his competitors for the Senate.

Take Indiana. The republicans were described as divided and uneasy. Mr. Taggart in the race for the Senate had overtaken Mr. Watson, and was looking like a winner. The republicans carried the state by a hundred and eighty thousand, and Mr. Taggart was distanced by Mr. Watson.

Take Illinois. Harding and Coolidge looked safe, but, owing to the Thompson-Lowden row, they stood to lose the governorship, and might also lose the senatorship. They lost nothing. Their national ticket had over eight hundred thousand plurality, while their candidate for governor and their candidate for senator each made a run-away race.

Take Ohio. A hundred thousand was allowed Mr. Harding at home. He had nearly four hundred thousand.

No wonder Mr. Tumulty and Mr. Doremus, at their meeting the other day, enjoyed themselves in recalling some campaign predictions.

Henry Ford has inspired a great deal of frivolous comment, but his price lists are taken very seriously.

The impression of Marshal Foch appears to be that it was a good enough victory, as far as it went.

Social Co-Operation.

The question as to whether or not the interests of social service work in Washington could best be furthered through a financial federation by the many individual agencies here engaged in the work of alleviating poverty and distress is moot today. The "peace chest" theory, whereby the separate budgets of these various agencies are united and a single drive made for one lump sum for the support of all, undoubtedly attracts. There is, however, admitting much in favor of such a proposal, much to be said on the other side of the argument. And, as a step which would call for a general burning of the bridges of the several agencies—in the form of their carefully constructed subscription lists—the scheme which would have to be made largely in the form of an experiment, must be most carefully scrutinized.

There is, however, an alternative proposal which, involving none of the dangers which are inherent in the proposition of financial federation, insures large advantages, in the form of increased efficiency for service, to the individual agencies as well as to social service in general in the National Capital. This proposal is for what might, perhaps, best be described as a "functional federation," the forming by the several agencies of a central council formed of delegates

from those agencies, and purposed to broaden and better local social service through co-operative effort.

The advantages of such federation are apparent and objections thereto difficult to conceive. Among the more obvious of its functions would be the bringing of the several local agencies into closer contact, the obviating of duplication of effort, the facilitation of organized educational work, the development of better interplay in the work of different agencies, the establishment of a comprehensive and progressive program for general social development, as well as for legislation and administrative reform, and the arrangement of a proper sequence of financial campaigns. More radical steps forward, properly viewed with caution by many, might best be considered and reported upon by a committee of such a council.

The scheme, properly developed, involves no threat to any legitimate social agency that its individuality will be swallowed in some comprehensive amalgamation. For the decisions of the council would have to meet with the approval of the board of the individual agencies affected before becoming effective. That a functional federation would be a long step, a safe step and a wise step toward full efficiency through purposeful co-operation may be confidently asserted.

Thrift Teaching.

"Instruction in the practical aspects of thrift and economy is the only means of stemming the tide of waste and extravagance," recite resolutions adopted in this city by a committee of state school superintendents meeting with Treasury officials and representatives of the American Bankers' Association. These resolutions advocated the teaching of systematic thrift to school children. No more valuable lessons could be given the children of America. They have already received training in saving through their purchase of thrift and war saving stamps, both during and since the war. Millions of dollars are now held to their credit in the Treasury through these securities. The first issue of these stamps will soon be funded and a large sum of money will be paid back to the children, who should be trained meanwhile in thrift in saving, so that they will use these sums properly and not squander them. If the children of the country can be made to realize the need of thrift they will be more independent and self-helpful when they reach manhood and womanhood. Much of the wastefulness and extravagance of the present adult generation is due to the lack of training during its childhood. Had these people who are now spending money recklessly and indulgently and without thought for the future been taught the lesson of thrift in their youth they would not today be living up to their incomes in luxury and pleasure, but would be saving margins against emergencies and the day of declining earning powers.

This country has been suffering during recent years severely from the extravagance of people whose incomes were increased in consequence of the war expansion of industry. All sense of values seems to have been distorted. It is now proposed by this present committee of educators and Treasury officers and bankers to insure against such habits by systematic, nation-wide instruction of the young. It is an excellent plan and should be adopted by the school authorities throughout the country.

The Harding Cabinet.

A press dispatch from French Lick Springs, where a number of prominent republicans are resting from their campaign labors, says:

"There was considerable talk among the republican leaders concerning the possible make-up of the cabinet of President-elect Harding. Fred W. Updham, treasurer of the republican national committee, in an interview said he was of the opinion that Senator Harding will have his mind made up to substantially every cabinet position before anything can be accomplished either for or against any individual through the efforts of any organization or any group of men."

As a rule, cabinets are not formed so quickly. Some have been formed slowly, and with difficulty. Some have been recast several times before taking the final form.

Gen. Garfield's cabinet was one of these. He had factional differences to compose, and they proved to be stubborn. "Uncle Jerry" Rusk's name was on a tentative list, but was removed before the names were sent to the Senate; and it was not until eight years later that "Uncle Jerry," as Secretary of Agriculture under Gen. Harrison, filled a cabinet place.

Mr. McKinley's cabinet was another. It was not until the eleventh hour that Cornelius N. Bliss of New York was induced to accept the secretaryship of the Interior. His private engagements were pressing. At last, however, he consented. Had he held out, it might have become necessary to make several changes in the list prepared.

There is an abundance of excellent material at Mr. Harding's command. But so many considerations—factional, sectional and other—enter into sorting it out, so as to get a well balanced service, the process might well be slow. He has a little more than three months in which to satisfy himself and his friends.

Bomb investigations bring forward that some of those engaged in the house-wrecking business were inclined to overdo it.

Texas has welcomed President-elect Harding with as much enthusiasm as it had voted for him.

Car Crossing Dangers.

Three cars came together in collision at the corner of 9th and F streets last evening in circumstances to have caused very serious damage, but fortunately the injuries inflicted were of a minor character and the most unfortunate result was the long delay in the traffic. Explanation is given that a west-bound car could not be stopped at the loading platform through failure of the brakes and a blowout of the current. The Public Utilities Commission will presumably investigate this accident and ascertain how it came to be possible for a car to develop brake trouble in a

short space of two blocks. The east-bound car in this case must have been in good order at 7th street, else its motorman would have known at that point that he could not control the brakes at 9th street. The crossing at 9th and F is one of the busiest in Washington, and the greatest care is necessary there to control the traffic. The loading platform is located sufficiently far east on F street from the intersecting tracks to permit full control of the cars going west. There is danger of collision on the part of cars going east, which must cross 9th street before stopping to receive and discharge passengers. But all cars must halt before crossing the track. If in this case there was a misunderstanding of signals the matter assumes a different aspect. A policeman was on duty at the crossing and was about to be relieved when the accident occurred. Inquiry should be directed into this point of whether the proper signal was given and was understood. Public safety depends upon the strict observance of the rules of traffic. Unreliable brakes or undependable signals, or inattentive motormen, or crossing guards, may cause wrecks at any time, and lives may be lost. The good fortune in this case that no one was seriously hurt does not lessen the necessity of a thorough investigation to the end that another mishap may not occur at any Washington street railway crossing.

A position which will call for very little work has been suggested for Mr. Joseph Tumulty. It is doubted whether one of the busiest presidential secretaries known to American history could be content with employment calling for less than a twenty-hour working day.

It is intimated that the manufacturers of "near-beer" are trying to put "home brew" out of commission. The manufacturers of yeast cakes may be expected to line up on the other side of the argument.

Princess Mary of England is said to have written to a friend: "Mother is trimming a hat for me. You can imagine what it looks like!" Uneasy lies the head that wears a home-trimmed hat.

According to Representative Kahn of California, United States soldiers are neither hill collectors nor policemen. The idea seems to be to add to numerous pressing questions the inquiry, "What are we here for?"

Germany, once confident that she could run the affairs of the world, will now be content if she can secure a practical agreement between her own capitalists and workmen.

After so many statements that Japan does not contemplate war with this country, the Japanese Emperor may consider himself justified in standing pat.

In the face of the enormous questions and interests involved in world affairs, the bear-and-bull games in Wall street begin to look like penny ante.

It will scarcely be expected that Mr. Coolidge will keep up the traditions of quiet humor with which Mr. Marshall has surrounded the vice presidential office.

Several distinguished service medals will be held on deposit by Secretary Daniels, but he will not go to the trouble of advertising for their owners.

In honoring the unknown soldier France honors the man who won the war.

The drop in temperature arrived ahead of the drop in coal prices.

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BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

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Watched their tints unroll.

Simple black I hail today.

And buy a ton of coal.

Gems so white of carbon made

Connoisseurs extol.

I prefer the darker shade.

Shooting along the coal.

Classic tunes no longer can

Edify my soul.

Let me hear the cellar man

Shovel in the coal.

Uncertainties of Applause.

"Some of those constituents of yours did not vote the way they applauded."

"No," answered Senator Sorghum.

"Some of them explained to me that they were not applauding my speech so much as my nerve in making it."

Test of Courage.

"I understand the ex-kaiser is writing a book."

"I sympathize with the book agents," commented Miss Ouyenne. "There isn't a chance that he will be brave enough to get out and take subscriptions himself."

Plumage.

Riches have wings.

It is confessed.

Graft is what brings

The feathered nest.

Jud Tunkins says he's perfectly willing to be wrong sometimes, for the sake of not spoiling an interesting argument.

Winter Wear.

"Are you thinking of trying to revive the overall fad?"

"No. Can't afford it. Would cost too much to have the overalls furnished."

Too Solemn.

From the Houston Post.

One thing is certain, if it is proposed to have any more referendums in this country we'll never agree to one of the "solemn" kind.

Where Is One?

From the Knoxville Journal and Tribune.

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